



# PROTECT MY AIR



## Day Care Environment “Checklist”

Daycare Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Evaluator: \_\_\_\_\_

☐ Home Day Care

☐ Day Care Center

☐ Routine Assessment

☐ Requested Assessment

*This environmental tool is intended to increase awareness of healthy indoor air, and is completely voluntary. Participation is not mandatory, and will not affect licensure status.*

### Pollutant (Trigger)

### Recommendation

**TOBACCO:** Evidence of staff or parents smoking around children, even outdoors. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Per Administrative Rule of Montana (ARM) 37.95.126, the state of Montana prohibits smoking in or around childcare environments. Build non-smoking policies into parental contracts that addresses smoking issue when parents drop children off at the daycare.

### COMBUSTION PRODUCTS:

Use of an unvented, fuel burning (*kerosene, propane, natural gas*) space heater. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Per ARM 37.95.706, no portable, electric or unvented fuel-fired heating devices are allowed in childcare environments.

Use of gas range for cooking. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Never use the stove to heat the home. This is a fire hazard as well as a pollution source. Use exhaust fan or open window when cooking.

Use of gas water heaters. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Annual professional inspection for proper ventilation, with written documentation of inspection kept on site.

Use of gas clothes dryer. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Annual professional inspection for proper ventilation, with written documentation of inspection kept on site.

Use of fireplace or woodstove. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Properly vent to ensure smoke escapes through the chimney. Assure that door on wood stove is tight fitting. Use aged or cured wood only.

Chimney is free of visible cracks or damaged parts. ☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Applicable

Professionally inspect annually. Promptly repair cracks or damaged parts.

**\*Presence of carbon monoxide detector.**  
☒ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not Needed

Have an installed working digital carbon monoxide detector if fuel burning system is used in daycare environment. Make sure batteries are fresh.

**LEAD:** Home built before 1978. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have painted surfaces tested for lead. If test is positive, have chipped or peeling paint removed professionally. Careful, regular cleaning and dust control using damp mops/dust rags. Frequent washing of kids' hands (*especially before eating*) and play things (*especially teething toys*).

Chipping/peeling paint present on walls, window frames, or siding. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Have chipped or peeling paint removed professionally. Careful, regular cleaning and dust control using damp mops/dust rags.

Home located near a busy highway (*leaded fuel residue may deposit in soil*). ☐ Yes ☐ No

Frequent washing of kids' hands (*especially before eating*) and play things (*especially teething toys*). Careful, regular cleaning and dust control using damp mops/dust rags. Use grass and plantings to keep children from contact with bare soil.

If YES: Grass and plantings used to keep children from contact with bare soil. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Use grass and plantings to keep children from contact with bare soil.

If any of the above are present:

■ Dust present on indoor surfaces. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Careful, regular cleaning and dust control using damp mops/dust rags.

■ Painted surfaces protected from mechanical damage. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Keep painted surfaces free of damage.

■ Accessible surfaces protected from children's chewing. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Keep accessible surfaces covered and do not allow children to chew (*put their mouths on*) these surfaces.

Vinyl mini blinds covering windows or doors. ☐ Yes ☐ No

Be aware that these blinds may contain lead, which may emit lead residue. Best to remove blinds if in question.

Pollutant (Trigger)	Recommendation
<b>PETS:</b> Presence of furry pets in the home ( <i>ie: cats, dogs, gerbils, hamsters, guinea pigs, mice</i> ). <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	If present, keep them out of areas where children spend a lot of time. Keep pets out of carpeted areas. Clean carpets frequently—be careful of carpet cleaning chemicals.
<b>*MOLD:</b> <i>Visible mold on ceilings, walls, tub, shower or windows.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Scrub mold off of hard surfaces with a non-ammonia household cleaner, followed by a cleaning of bleach and water ( <i>mixed 1 part bleach to 10 parts water</i> ). Clean up mold and dry surfaces completely before painting or caulking. Replace absorbent materials ( <i>ceiling tiles and carpet</i> ) if mold is present. Get professional help for areas of mold growth that are larger than 10 square feet.
<b>*Visible plumbing leaks.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Dry damp or wet items within 48 hours to avoid mold growth. Fix water leaks as soon as possible. Replace absorbent materials, such as ceiling tiles or carpet, if mold is present.
<b>*Open containers of water standing around</b> ( <i>refrigerator drip pan, air conditioner drip pans, house plants</i> ) <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Empty and clean refrigerator and air conditioner drip pans regularly. Avoid standing water in plant containers.
Room humidifier in use. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Keep indoor humidity below 60% ( <i>ideally between 30-50%</i> ) relative humidity. Empty and clean drip pan regularly. Use low mineral content water to prevent dispersal of minerals into the air.
Excess moisture evident on windows. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Increase ventilation or air movement by opening doors and/or windows when practical. Use fans as needed. Run bathroom exhaust fan or open window when showering. Vent appliances properly.
<b>*Moldy smell evident.</b> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	May be hidden mold. Search for areas of excessive moisture and standing water.
Evidence of water around foundation and basement. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Install gutter and downspouts. Extend downspouts away from house.
Presence of house plants. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Avoid standing water in drip pans under house plants. Replace visibly moldy potting soil ( <i>soil that appears white or has white spots present</i> ).
Rooms and moisture producing appliances ( <i>stoves, clothes dryers, dishwashers</i> ) properly vented. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Use exhaust fans that are installed according to manufacturer's instructions. Increase ventilation by opening doors/windows ( <i>in summer only</i> ). Use fans.
Wood for fireplace or woodstove is stacked inside home. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Do not store wood indoors.
<b>*CHEMICALS:</b> <i>Strong odors or fumes</i> ( <i>cleaners, paints, adhesives, pesticides, air freshener, cosmetics</i> ). <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No	Open windows/doors and use fans. Use chemicals when children will be away for a while, such as holidays and weekends. Avoid use of perfumes, air fresheners, hair products, and scented candles.
Use of solvent based art supplies. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Read labels. Avoid products with cautionary statements (i.e., "use in well ventilated area").
<b>RADON:</b> Children occupy basement. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	Have home tested for radon. Inexpensive kits are available at home centers or through mail order. If a home has a high radon level ( <i>exceeds 4pi/L</i> ), a radon mitigation system can be installed in the basement to vent the gas through the roof ( <i>cost \$1500-\$3,000</i> ). Temporary measure—partly open basement windows.
If YES, building has been tested for radon. <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	
<input type="checkbox"/> Cling Awarded	Key indoor air indicators are marked with an asterisk. Four of the six key indicators must be met to receive a window cling.